

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 COME-00 FTC-01 JUSE-00

SEC-01 H-02 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 /077 W

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O R 251659Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8819

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4612

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BBAK PFOR NL US

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED AND THE PRINCE

REF: THE HAGUE 4573

1. AS TIME DRAWS NEAR FOR GOVERNMENT'S REPORT TO PARLIAMENT AND PUBLIC ON PRINCE BERNHARD, SPECULATION ON CONTENTS OF REPORT, GOVERNMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND QUEEN'S REACTION MOUNTS. AS FAR AS WE ARE ABLE TO DETERMINE, MOST OF THE STORIES AND SCENARIOS MAKING THE ROUNDS OF THE HAGUE ARE BASED ON SPECULATION. GON AND ROYAL HOUSE ARE UNDERSTANDABLY HOLDING FACTS EXTREMELY CLOSE. BECAUSE OF US ANGLE AND SENSITIVITY INVOLVED, EMBASSY HAS SOUGHT AVOID DUTCH RUMOR MILLS.

2. ONE STORY WHICH HAS BEEN MAKING THE JOURNALISTIC ROUNDS FOR OVER A WEEK, AND WHICH WAS INCLUDED IN A BBC RADIO INTERVIEW
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WITH STATION'S LOCAL STRINGER LAST WEEK, IS THAT REPORT WILL

SO INCRIMINATE PRINCE BERNHARD (ALTHOUGH NOT CONCLUSIVELY PROVING THAT HE ACCEPTED BRIBES) THAT QUEEN WILL ABDICATE. SAME SCENARIO HAS PRINCESS BEATRIX REFUSING ACCEPT CROWN AS A RESULT OF HER FATHER'S DISGRACE, BUT ACTING AS REGENT FOR HER OLDEST SON, TEN-YEAR-OLD PRINCE WILLEM-ALEXAMDER. OTHE RUMORS HAVE IT THAT BEATRIX WILL EVEN REFUSE SERVE AS REGENT, BEING REPLACED BY JULIANA'S THIRD DAUGHTER, PRINCES MARGRIET.

3. WHILE KEEPING A LOW PROFILE ON THIS CASE, WE HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF CONTACTS WITH DUTCHMEN WHO ARE NORMALLY WELL PLUGGED INTO THE DUTCH CABINET, ESPECIALLY WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. THOSE SOURCES, WHILE NEVER QUESTIONED ABOUT THE ABOVE SCENERIO, HAVE NEVER ALLUDED TO ITS POSSIBILITY. THEY HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN CASE CLOSELY AND HAVE HAD ACCESS TO THE FEW CABINET MEMBERS WHO ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS THE AFFAIR IN EVEN A LIMITED WAY. WE WOULD NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF ABDICATION, BUT AT THIS POINT, ON THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE, SUGGEST NEED TO VIEW WITH CAUTION THIS SCENARIO OR ANY VARIATIONS.

4. WE HAVE JUST HEARD PM DEN UYL PLANS TO PRESENT REPORT TO SECOND CHAMBER AUGUST 26 AT 5 PM LOCAL TIME.
BROWN

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Message Attributes

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